

HG

9341

T8

FT MEADE
GenColl





Class HG 9341

Book .T8

Copyright N^o _____

COPYRIGHT DEPOSIT.

The HOME *of*
THE TRAVELERS





BAS-RELIEF STATUE OF THE LATE
JAMES G. BATTERSON
FOUNDER OF
THE TRAVELERS
ALBIN POLASEK SCULPTOR

The HOME
OF
THE TRAVELERS



THE TRAVELERS
INSURANCE COMPANY

THE TRAVELERS
INDEMNITY COMPANY

HARTFORD · CONNECTICUT

HG 9341
.T8

Copyright, 1921, by
THE TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY
Hartford, Connecticut

4



REDFIELD-KENDRICK-ODELL CO., INC.
New York

©CL A 617662

JUL -7 '21

no 1



EARLY HOMES



THE TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY, chartered by the State of Connecticut in 1863 as an accident insurance company for the purpose of demonstrating the value of certain plans for accident insurance conceived by James G. Batterson, of Hartford, a commanding figure in the busi-

ness and intellectual life of his city and state, found its first home in two rooms on the second floor of a small building at the corner of Main and Kinsley streets. Here was inaugurated in the spring of 1864 the business of accident insurance in the United States, the cornerstone of a great company then being laid amid the vicissitudes of the Civil War and in the face of skepticism and doubt.

It was natural that the birthplace of accident insurance in America should be the City of Hartford. Since 1810 Hartford men had been trained in the principles of insurance. They had insisted from the beginning that the foundation of the business was unvarying integrity and the full discharge of not only

the letter but the spirit of their engagements no matter what the cost. The Travelers was built upon that tradition, and, in common with other Hartford companies, has held to it faithfully.

The Company commenced business with Mr. Batterson as President, Rodney Dennis as Secretary, and John E. Morris as its only clerk. Notwithstanding the general opinion that the project, backed by a capital of \$400,000, was visionary and hazardous, the Company's income in 1865 was \$516,623, and its assets at the end of that year \$616,869.

This growth made larger quarters necessary, and the Company moved to its second home, the ground floor and basement of a four-story building on the corner of Asylum Street and Union Place. The second office consisted of three rooms; a general office in front, behind which was a room occupied by Secretary Dennis, with a directors' room in the rear. The Company's agents, when in the office, used the directors' room. The furniture in the early offices was plain and cheap, some of it having been purchased in second-hand stores. On the front of the office over the windows was a sign fifty feet long and three feet wide, with the name of the Company in large letters, the most conspicuous sign in the city. At that time the chief argument in favor of accident insurance was the danger of travel on the railroads. It may have been design or it may have been chance, but the location of the office of The Travelers of that day, next the railroad, seems logical and appropriate. It was while the Company was here that a series of disastrous railroad accidents forced recognition of the need and value of the new form of protection, and the progress of the Company became substantial.

In 1872 the income was \$1,187,778, and the assets reached \$2,231,708. In the fall of this year the Ellsworth house on Prospect Street was purchased, and The Travelers moved to its third home—where it remained for thirty-five years.



A GREY SPIRIT PRESIDING OVER THE VISTA BETWEEN THE POST OFFICE AND THE OLD STATEHOUSE—
VIEWED FROM THE SITE OF THE ANCIENT MEETING HOUSE SQUARE

Prospect Street had long been one of the prominent streets of the City. It was laid out in 1785, just west of and paralleling a lane leading from Meeting House Square to the parsonage of the Rev. Thomas Hooker, one of the founders of the Colony of Connecticut. When the street was laid out, the Ellsworth house site was bought by Oliver Wolcott, Jr., statesman, financier, and manufacturer, Secretary of the Treasury under Washington and Adams, and afterward Governor of Connecticut. In 1792 it was sold to Chauncey Goodrich, and in 1822 to Henry L. Ellsworth, an architect and a Mayor of Hartford. Mr. Ellsworth erected for himself the mansion so long occupied by The Travelers. He lived in it until 1839, after which it was successively owned by Prof. Charles Davies, of the United States Military Academy, Roswell C. Smith, Alfred Smith, long President of the Connecticut River Banking Company, and the Hon. Isaac Toucey, Governor of Connecticut and United States Senator.

During the time that it occupied the Ellsworth house the Company constantly and greatly gained in size, strength, and reputation. The leading accident company in America, it became also a factor in the life insurance business, which it had inaugurated in 1866 on the guaranteed low-cost plan. In 1889 the writing of liability insurance was undertaken, Mr. Batterson holding firmly to his belief that liability insurance was a logical extension of the theory of accident insurance. Thus The Travelers, writing accident, life, and liability insurance, became one of Hartford's prominent insurance companies.

To Travelers men of that day the Ellsworth house seemed typical of the Company. The house grew as the Company grew, throwing out now a wing and again an ell, then another story, but preserving all the time the appearance of a family home, while the Company welcomed new members to its force, sent others to distant fields, called them home once more to family councils or to head new departments. The mansion looked hospitable, substantial, and serene.



THE MAIN STAIRCASE LEADING TO THE ASSEMBLY HALL

The Ellsworth house was enlarged five times, but it became evident that the limit of expansion had been reached, and a much larger and more modern building was imperative. In 1904 property was acquired at the corner of Main and Grove streets, and on June 29, 1906, the cornerstone of the permanent home of The Travelers was laid. At this time the Company's original staff of three had increased to more than 400, its income to \$13,895,510, and its assets to \$48,960,079.



RISING OVER THE HEART OF THE TOWN, THE TOWER LOOKS DOWN ON MAIN STREET, THE OLD BULFINCH
STATEHOUSE, AND THE CENTER OF HARTFORD'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

ANNALS OF A BUILDING SITE

TWO hundred and eighty-three years ago Sunckquasson, Indian Sachem, deeded the land where Hartford now stands to Samuel Stone, William Goodwin, and others. The main highway of the Hartford settlement ran where Main Street now lies, in a straight line from the Palisado or fort, near the South Green, to the fort at Sentinel Hill, a rise of ground at the corner of Main and Morgan streets. These forts were armed with two small cannons, and the sentinels had a clear view from one end of the town to the other.

Midway between the two forts and on the east side of the highway lay a piece of land destined a little later to become one of the most historic spots in New England. Upon it the Home Office of The Travelers now stands.

Under the form of government adopted by the settlers, who were known as "proprietors," three distributions were made of the property acquired under the Indian deed. In 1639 the General Court passed an order providing for a "ledger booke" and a "towne clerke, who shall record every man's house and land already graunted and measured out to him, with the bounds and quantity of the same." This book, known as the "Book of Distribution," shows among the early proprietors John Steele and Clement Chapling. Upon the northwestern corner of the land of John Steele stands the Travelers tower and south wing, and upon the southwestern corner of the land of Clement Chapling stands the north wing.

In 1639 or 1640 John Steele sold his land and dwelling to John Taylcott, who immediately sold it to John Moris. In 1651 John Moris sold to Jeremy Addams.



THE ASSEMBLY HALL WITH ITS MEMORIALS OF JAMES G. BATTERSON, FOUNDER,
AND SYLVESTER C. DUNHAM, SECOND PRESIDENT

The General Court had ordered that inns be established. Hartford having a population of 1,200, and Jeremy having been adjudged by two magistrates a fit person to be an innkeeper, he established an inn shortly after he had purchased the property. In this inn or tavern the General Court sat, ruling the community with a strong hand. It required Jeremy to provide “a chamber for the meeting of the court, furnished with chairs and tables, a large leather chair and carpet, with accommodation for forty or fifty people.”

For nearly fifty years the whole government of the Colony was conducted in this tavern, including every act of legislation and of administration, all orders for the regulation of public and private life, all diplomatic correspondence with England and with the other Colonies, treaties with the Indians, trials of witches, the controversies with Governor Andros, all questions of war, trade, and commerce. Here in rotation sat the commissioners of confederated New England. Here Winthrop, relating how he persuaded the King to grant the charter, spread it before their eyes. Here the magistrates read the message announcing that fiery outbreak of King Philip and the Indian Tribes which shook New England to its foundations.

Jeremy had mortgaged his tavern to the Colony of Connecticut and in 1682, being unable to pay, he passed it over to the Colony. The General Court appointed a committee to make sale of the tavern and lot, and in due time the Treasurer conveyed the property, comprising three acres, to a new owner, Zachary Sanford, grandson of Jeremy Addams.

So Zachary Sanford became landlord, and the General Court continued to sit in the Court Chamber. Through the early months of the new landlord's occupancy there were mysterious goings and comings, an atmosphere of anxiety, many meetings of the Court, and finally on October 31, 1687, there broke upon the ears of the Court, there in session, the clatter of many hoofs, the sound of horsemen dismounting, the opening of doors—it was Governor Andros come in person with a trumpeter and twenty red-coated troopers to take over the great charter and assume the government.

Then occurred that thing which made this spot historic. When the charter was laid before Governor Andros by the indignant and protesting members of the Court, the candles were suddenly extinguished, and the charter was seized by Captain Wadsworth, who escaped to hide it in a cavity in a great tree, a thousand years old, to be known ever after as the Charter Oak.



LOOKED AT FROM THE NORTH, A GREY MOUNTAIN PILING UP ITS FASTNESSES ABOVE THE FOOTHILLS
OF CENTRAL ROW

Zachary Sanford died, and the tavern passed to his daughter Sarah and her husband, Jonathan Bunce. Jonathan Bunce died, and during the years 1728-1731 the estate was distributed, and Samuel Flagg, by marriage with Sarah Bunce and by purchase from the other heirs, came into possession of the tavern. Immediately the old inn was torn down, and Flagg built the famous Black Horse Tavern near to the present street line.

For many years the Black Horse Tavern was the most widely known of all the inns in the Colony. Officers of the troops passing on their way to the French and Indian Wars enjoyed its hospitality. Here was celebrated the victory of Wolfe on the Plains of Abraham, and the commandant of Ticonderoga and captured British officers tasted of its good cheer.

Hannah Flagg having married Captain John Chenevard, the property was deeded to him in 1788. On his death it came into possession of his daughters, Margaret and Hepzibah. In 1859 the property was sold by Margaret Chenevard to the Universalist Society, from which it was purchased in 1905 by The Travelers Insurance Company, destined in its turn to occupy the historic site after a unique history of its own.



A SHEER CLIFF OF WHITE, AMID THE ELMS WHICH ONCE SHADED THE COLONIAL RESIDENCES
OF PROSPECT STREET

THE BUILDING

THE Travelers Building, architecturally a unit, has been built in three sections. First the north wing, which was occupied in 1907, at which time the office force numbered 482; then the balance of the Main Street front and a south wing 196 feet deep, occupied in 1913, at which time the personnel numbered 955; and third, in 1919, the extension of the south wing to Prospect Street, together with the tower rising over it; making the floor area of the whole building 332,000 square feet. The present Home Office staff numbers more than 4,200. The building, designed in a free renaissance style, combines consistent simplicity of scheme with dignity and coherence of expression, in massive proportion and boldness of detail.

The architect was Donn Barber, of New York, and the builders were Marc Eidlitz & Son, Inc. The building is of composite construction, consisting of a framework of steel bearing an anchored covering of stone and brick. The exterior walls are pink Westerly granite, and the walls on the court light-colored brick. It is interesting to note that the quarries in Westerly, Rhode Island, from which the granite was procured were first developed by James G. Batterson, the founder of the Company.

The main building is nine stories high, extending 133 feet from the sidewalk to the main cornice. Its ground measurements are 128 by 326 feet.

Architecturally speaking, the first three floors of the building constitute a base for the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth stories, which unite to form one feature. The ninth story is treated as a frieze carrying the imposing copper cornice, above which is the tenth half-story, set back somewhat and but slightly visible from the street.



VIEW OF HARTFORD SHOWING THE TRAVELERS BUILDING



Harvard Univ. Lib.

The tower, which dominates the architecture of the city, a beautiful and monumental structure, rises harmoniously above the south wing near its center to a height of 34 stories, the top of the lantern being 527 feet above the sidewalk, a height exceeded by but few buildings in the world.

The tower up to the fifteenth floor is of the same architecture as the main building. The sixteenth story is treated as a horizontal band, while in the seventeenth and eighteenth stories an arcade motif is developed. Above the twentieth floor the tower is set back on its long dimension, and the twentieth, twenty-first, and twenty-second stories serve as a base for the Ionic colonnade of the twenty-third, twenty-fourth, and twenty-fifth.

Above the colonnade the tower recedes again on its long dimension to form a square, finished symmetrically on all sides. At the twenty-seventh floor a loggia 359 feet above the street is developed, the four corners of the roof being supported by piers and free Doric columns. The balcony on each side is formed by a deep Palladian arch treatment and a balustrade. The roof of the loggia is pyramidal, sloping to a second look-out just below the cupola. The entire tower to this point is of stone, but the cupola surmounting it is of metal. The lower portion of the cupola is utilized as an outlet for the smokestack. The upper portion is built to form the crowning feature, and supports a finial with a cluster of metal balls varying from 4 to 20 inches in diameter. The cupola or lantern, 81 feet high, is of copper covered with gold leaf.

Under the cupola, at the thirty-fourth story level, there is a beacon consisting of thirty-six 400-watt projectors and eight others of 200-watt power, throwing a solid band of white light, visible for many miles.

Looked at from the east or west the tower appears quite slender, while from the north or south it shows considerable breadth—a great white cliff studded with windows, surmounted by a series of classic building units of diminishing size, rising successively in agreeable composition.



Wm. H. Fair
19

IN THE AFTERNOON SUN OF BUSHNELL PARK

The narrower face of the tower assumes approximately the proportions of a Corinthian column; that is, the ratio of its width to its height is about one to ten and a half. The corresponding ratio is one to eleven in the Washington monument; and in the famous Campanile of St. Mark's in Venice it is about one to nine. The perfection of The Travelers Tower, built for utility as well as for beauty, is thus emphasized. The tower is filled with offices up to and including the twenty-fourth floor.



THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



THE DIRECTORS' ROOM

The exterior of the building, while imposing and inspiring, affords little clue to the interior of this business home of more than 4,200 people or the magnitude of the operations carried on therein. Entering the building one stands in the staircase hall, two stories high and flooded with artificial sunlight. In the center a marble staircase leads to the Assembly Hall, a beautiful room of classic proportions, which provides a fit setting for the memorials to the Company's former presidents. Its bronze doorway is one of the features of the building.



William Henry Bridge

THE ROOFS OF MAIN STREET



THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND THE MORGAN MEMORIAL LEAD THE EYE TO THE IMPRESSIVE BEAUTY OF THE TOWER
FROM THE SOUTH



AN ACTIVE RECORD FILE OF A DEPARTMENT

The staircase hall is treated in Hauteville marble up to the second story level, above which the walls are finished in Caen stone. The Assembly Hall, finished with a low wainscoting, is in Hauteville marble, the walls, panels, columns, and cornices of Caen stone plaster. This room, situated in the court between the north and south wings, is lighted from the east and from above. It is used on occasion for large meetings and will seat 400.

To the right and left of the staircase are the corridors, wainscoted in marble, one extending the whole length of the south wing. The building is equipped with 17 elevators. In 13 years of operation, with all the employees

ascending or descending on the elevators four times each working day—at morning, noon, and night—plus millions of other trips, there has been but one slight injury.

The Travelers Building conforms with the most advanced practice in office



THE FINAL RECORD FILE OF THE COMPANY

housing. Its ventilating system takes in air on the roof, filters and purifies it, and delivers it throughout the building by means of ducts, the combined length of which equals twenty-two miles. The blower system is capable of furnishing eleven million cubic feet of fresh air per hour. In cold weather the air is passed over steam coils and heated to the proper temperature. A centrifugal exhaustor removes the vitiated air. Although the building is a remarkably light one, with unusual window space, cream walls, and light oak finish, ample artificial light is provided by means of an especially effective system.

The drinking water is cooled and purified. Electric dumbwaiters carry mail and papers throughout the building. All windows have bronze-covered frames and sashes and nearly all are glazed with wire glass. It is believed that the building is fireproof, although it has its own fire equipment in all parts, including the whole of the tower.

In general, the building is arranged by departments. The eighth floor is commonly called the executive floor, as here are the offices of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and other executives, and the Directors' room. This beautiful room, panelled in English oak, has portraits of the former presidents.

The Accident Department is on the fifth floor, the Life Department on the fourth, the Compensation and Liability Department on the seventh. These departments each transact more business than most single-line companies. The tower is largely occupied by The Travelers Indemnity Company and for actuarial purposes, the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first floors being filled with tabulating machines.

Space forbids an enumeration of the departments and divisions in the building, but among the more unusual features may be mentioned the hospital and the Travelers clubs, which are important factors in connection with the Home Office personnel. The Travelers Girls' Club comprises 2,000 members and has quarters on the tenth floor in the tower, the level of the main building roof.



Virginia Love Bailey

A CENTRALIZED STENOGRAPHIC FORCE, WITH NEARLY TWO HUNDRED YOUNG WOMEN UNDER ONE
DIRECTION, IS A FEATURE OF THE TRAVELERS ORGANIZATION



Vernon L. Bailey

ONE OF THE GREAT WORKROOMS, MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED FEET IN LENGTH. THERE ARE MANY LIKE THIS, WITH
HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE FAITHFULLY AND COMPETENTLY PERFORMING THE COMPANY'S BUSINESS

Here is a spacious lounge, a dance floor, a large luncheon room, and a kitchen. The rooms open upon a roof garden equipped with rustic furniture and an awning roof. The men's club numbers over 1,400. Its quarters are on the first floor in the Prospect Street end of the south wing. A finely furnished library, a billiard room, card room, and locker room are provided.

The hospital is on the fourth floor. Attached is a staff of five graduate nurses, who attend those suddenly ill and assist the medical staff in examinations of new employees. The nurse staff looks over the entire building as to conditions of health and sanitation twice each day.

The Travelers Building is one of the largest buildings in the world devoted to one business. It is used entirely by The Travelers, excepting the two Main Street corners on the first floor, which are occupied by banks.



Vernon W. Bailey

SEEN IN ITS SLENDER ASPECT, OVER A BIT OF OLD HARTFORD

THE TRAVELERS

THE Travelers' strength lies in its conception of the possibilities in a multiple-line company, in the service it renders, in its extraordinarily efficient agents and field representatives, and in its development of the Branch Office system. The Travelers Insurance Company and its subsidiary, The Travelers Indemnity Company, which was organized in 1906 to write certain lines not permitted by The Travelers Insurance Company's charter, constitute —THE TRAVELERS. The lines written are (in the order of their inception) accident insurance, life insurance, liability insurance, health insurance, automobile insurance (personal injury, property damage, and collision), steam boiler insurance, workmen's compensation insurance, group insurance (life, accident, and sickness), burglary insurance, plate glass insurance, aircraft insurance, and engine insurance.

The Travelers as a multiple-line company is unique in that it is the leader in most of the lines that it writes. Throughout its history it has been the one great accident company of America; it has long been the leader by a wide margin in liability and workmen's compensation insurance. It leads in guaranteed low-cost life insurance, in automobile insurance, in group insurance, in burglary insurance, and in aircraft insurance.

The Travelers maintains over sixty Branch Offices in the United States and Canada. In connection with these Branch Offices it employs on salary about five thousand people. In some Branch Offices the number employed to handle the affairs of the district is larger than the number of employees in the home office of many companies. An idea of this is gained from two of the larger offices. In New York the employees number nearly fifteen hundred, while the



London 1914 Bailey

THE COMPANY MAINTAINS A TRAINING SCHOOL, WHERE NEW MEN LEARN THE BUSINESS IN ORDER TO CARRY THEIR KNOWLEDGE INTO THE FIELD. THESE MEN ARE THE SECOND-LIEUTENANTS OF THE TRAVELERS ARMY—THE SELECTED MEN ON WHOM THE SUCCESS OF THE COMPANY OUTSIDE THE HOME OFFICE IS TO DEPEND. FOUR HUNDRED WERE TRAINED IN THE SCHOOL IN 1920

floor area of the Branch Office in the Insurance Exchange Building in Chicago is 26,500 square feet.

The first President of The Travelers was James Goodwin Batterson, its founder. Mr. Batterson was a man of powerful personality and varied talents. He laid the foundations of The Travelers and he laid them well. He was President for thirty-eight years, beginning in 1863, after his return from England with the railroad accident ticket, which had suggested to him the idea of an accident company in America. Mr. Batterson was really a builder of buildings—but his imagination did not stop there. His great versatility and energy found many outlets, among them the making of a great insurance company. His tremendous vitality and determination gave the Company its first impetus and saw it through its early struggles and reverses.

Sylvester Clark Dunham, succeeding Mr. Batterson on October 14, 1901, had been Counsel of the Company and Vice-President. A man of calm judgment and sympathetically disposed, he was possessed at the same time of a strong sense of justice and a tenacity for the right. Especially he seemed to have a clear vision of the Company's future. He selected his associates ably and inspired them with his own loyalty and enthusiasm.

Mr. Dunham guided the destinies of the Company during that middle period, increased the vigor of its development, and paved the way for still greater growth—which unfortunately he was prevented from witnessing. He died on October 15, 1915.

Louis F. Butler succeeded Mr. Dunham and is now President. All his business life has been devoted to The Travelers. Beginning in the Ticket Department, he rose to be Assistant Actuary and Actuary of the Casualty Departments, Assistant Secretary of the Company, Secretary, and Vice-President.

On January 1, 1921, The Travelers Insurance Company had assets of \$195,034,169, reserves and other liabilities of \$178,642,369, and capital

of \$7,500,000, with surplus of \$8,891,800. Its income in 1920 was \$86,023,667. The Travelers Indemnity Company had assets of \$8,399,161, reserves and other liabilities of \$6,079,081, capital of \$1,500,000, and surplus of \$820,080. Its total income was \$9,165,060.

To the beginning of the year 1921 payments to policyholders amounted to a total of \$272,614,998, and expenditures for prevention of accidents through inspection to \$7,882,484.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

0 021 221 327 5